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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LISA WOSKE
805/756-7110**'Cabaret' Comes from Broadway to Cal Poly for Two Shows**

The revolutionary reinvention of the Broadway hit musical "Cabaret," winner of four 1998 Tony Awards® including Best Revival, will be at the Christopher Cohan Center at 8 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, February 4 and 5, 2002.

Cal Poly Arts presents the national touring production, which brings the seedy glamour of the legendary Kit Kat Club to San Luis Obispo.

"Stunning," raved the New York Times, "'Cabaret' has returned with a vengeance!" Time Magazine agreed: "Vibrant, a re-energized 'Cabaret.'" With music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb and book by Joe Masteroff, "Cabaret" tells the story of an English woman's romance with an American writer set against the decadent background of a crumbling Germany at the start of the Third Reich.

The musical is based on the true-life observations of Christopher Isherwood, who wrote "The Berlin Stories" about his experiences in Berlin between 1929 and 1932. Playwright John van Druten turned one of those stories into the play "I Am A Camera," which was produced on Broadway in 1952.

Playwright Joe Masteroff had the idea of developing "I Am A Camera" into a musical and brought it to the attention of Broadway director Harold Prince. Prince then contacted songwriters Kander and Ebb. The original 1967 production of "Cabaret" won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score.

Kander and Ebb went on to become two of the most successful and prolific collaborators in the American theatre. In 1991, they were inducted into the New York Theatre Hall of Fame and in 1998, won the Kennedy Center Honors for achievement in the arts.

The 1972 film version of "Cabaret," directed by Bob Fosse and starring Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey, won nine Academy Awards. This musical contains adult themes and mature language.

Tickets for the performances range from \$42 - \$54, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/SLO-ARTS (756-2787); to order by fax: (805) 756-6088. This performance is sponsored by Gene and Ethel Lenz and La Cuesta Inn.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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